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The POULTRY and EGG SITUATION

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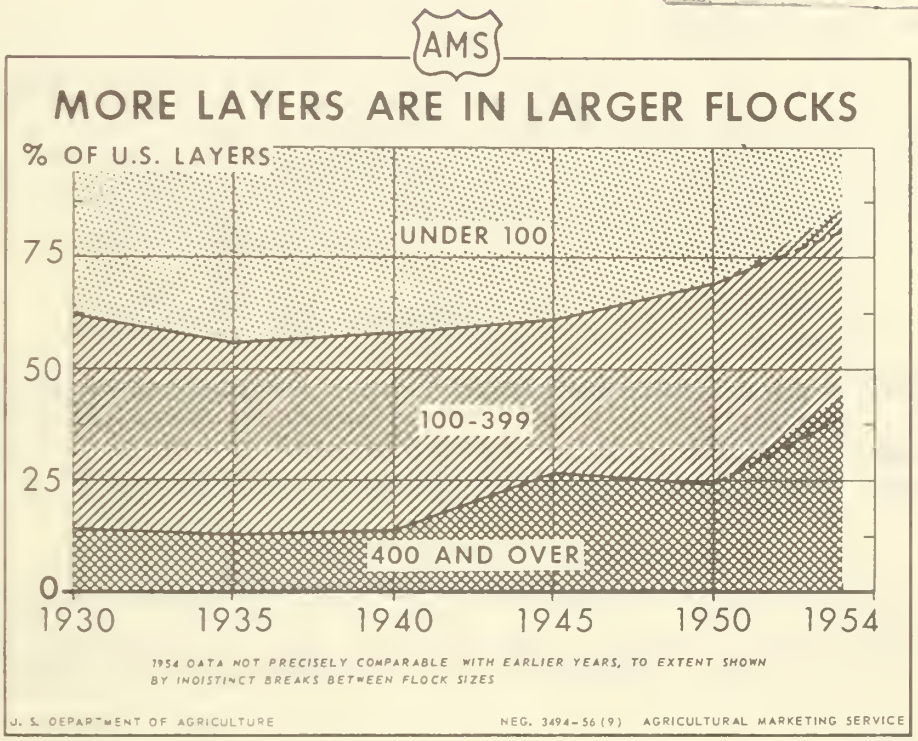
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



An increasing proportion of the layers on U. S. farms are being kept in flocks of over 400 birds. Large flocks lay enough eggs to justify attention to quality maintenance and advantageous marketing.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

THE POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION AT A GLANCE

Item	Unit	Month or date	Average 1945-54	1955	1956	Month or date	Average 1945-54	1955	1956	Comments on current situation
EGGS										
Farm production	Mil. doz.	July	364.8	384.8	396.0	Aug.	327.6	357.9	379.9	August was probable low point of 1956 production.
Average number of layers on farms	Millions	July	289.3	276.2	280.6	Aug.	286.1	279.6	287.6	
Rate of lay per layer	Eggs	July	14.2	16.7	16.9	Aug.	13.8	15.4	15.9	
Apparent disappearance, shell eggs per civilian	Eggs	June	28.6	26.4	25.4	July	28.8	26.8	1/ 27.2	
Frozen egg production	Mil. lb.	July	19.2	25.9	27.2	Aug.	10.4	10.0	15.5	
Dried egg production	Mil. lb.	July	6.4	2.6	1.6	Aug.	4.0	1.5	1.4	
Price received by farmers	Ct. per doz.	July	41.8	35.2	36.5	Aug.	44.9	39.4	36.9	Wholesale quotations rose after mid-August.
Price received by farmers as a percentage of parity	Percent	July	91	76	79	Aug.	91	80	73	
Retail price (AMS)	Ct. per doz.	June	57.9	51.5	54.0	July	62.2	55.0	55.9	
Egg-feed price ratio	Lb. feed	July	10.9	9.7	10.0	Aug.	11.8	11.1	10.1	
Stocks:										
Shell	Thous. cases	Aug. 1	3,526	2,244	1,259	Sept. 1	3,078	1,680	1,014	
Frozen	Mil. lb.	Aug. 1	203.9	194.7	177.4	Sept. 1	183.9	179.9	169.2	
Chicks hatched by commercial hatcheries	Millions	July	77.6	125.9	141.6	Aug.	66.6	111.5	134.3	At this season, mostly for broilers.
Pullets not yet of laying age on farms	Millions	Aug. 1	269.3	197.9	200.5	Sept. 1	229.6	149.8	153.6	
Farm price of poultry ration	Dol. per cwt.	July	3.84	3.63	3.64	Aug.	3.84	3.54	3.66	
POULTRY										
Price received by farmers for chickens, live										Broiler prices reflect large current production; other chicken prices, large storage stocks.
Broilers	Ct. per lb.	July	30.4	26.5	21.7	Aug.	31.0	26.9	19.6	
Farm chickens	Ct. per lb.	July	25.0	19.3	16.4	Aug.	24.8	18.4	16.2	
All chickens	Ct. per lb.	July	27.6	24.7	20.5	Aug.	27.4	24.4	18.7	
Price received by farmers for all chickens as a percentage of parity	Percent	July	100	85	71	Aug.	99	85	65	
Retail price of broilers and fryers dressed (AMS)	Ct. per lb.	June	49.5	53.7	46.7	July	49.8	53.3	49.0	
Price received by farmers for turkeys, live	Ct. per lb.	July	32.9	29.6	28.9	Aug.	33.7	29.5	28.7	
Stocks:										
Poultry, excluding turkeys	Mil. lb.	Aug. 1	84.1	57.0	90.7	Sept. 1	96.7	71.8	111.4	
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	Aug. 1	39.9	45.0	36.1	Sept. 1	35.5	48.0	51.0	Faster pickup than last year of turkey stocks reflects record-large crop.
Broiler-feed price ratio	Lb. feed	July	---	5.3	4.3	Aug.	---	5.4	3.8	
Turkey-feed price ratio	Lb. feed	July	8.7	8.2	7.9	Aug.	8.9	8.3	7.8	
Average weekly placement of chicks in 22 important States	Millions	July	---	22.1	24.8	Aug.	---	19.4	23.4	

1/ Preliminary.

THE POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, September 24, 1956

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SUMMARY

Egg production in August was 6 percent higher than last August and monthly output during the remainder of the year will likely exceed 1955. With production increasing seasonally, prices are unlikely to advance much from current levels and probably will stay below a year earlier during the remainder of 1956.

Egg prices have recovered since early August when Midwestern and some Eastern prices were about the lowest so far this year. The Department of Agriculture has asked for offers of medium size eggs to be submitted for purchase, for distribution to School Lunches and similar outlets.

The number of layers on farms September 1 was 3 percent larger than last year. This year's replacement hatch was early with most of the increase over 1955 coming in March or earlier. Pullets from these chicks are already producing. Future additions to the 1956-57 laying flock are likely to exceed 1955 only slightly, and they may be offset by culling of the large carry-over of old hens, birds hatched before 1955.

The large number of broiler chickens now growing and eggs set in incubators indicate that supplies of broiler chickens for the remainder of the year will continue about 20 percent larger than in the same months of 1955. Demand for broilers usually declines in the final quarter of the year, but the decline this year may be tempered by the expected somewhat higher prices than last year for red meats. Prices, therefore, may hold quite near the levels prevailing to mid-September.

Slaughter from the record-large 1956 turkey crop has reached a fairly large volume. The Department of Agriculture has announced plans to buy turkeys for School Lunches. In major production areas, such as the Central Valley of California, prices in mid-September were 3 cents or more per pound below last year.

Poultry feed prices, which rose sharply this spring and gradually since, are likely to move seasonally lower in coming weeks.

Contraseasonal Decline in August Egg Prices

Egg prices broke in early August, and in August egg price quotations were lower than a year earlier, in many instances about the lowest of 1956 to date. The price declines were sharpest in the Midwest. Until August, egg prices in 1956 had generally been above a year earlier.

Egg prices recovered in early September, but they remain below comparable 1955 prices. The Secretary of Agriculture announced on September 7 that the Department of Agriculture is prepared to purchase shell eggs for School Lunches and other outlets if such action seemed necessary to stabilize egg prices. This was followed on September 19 by announcement of specifications under which offers of medium size eggs were invited for Government purchase. As is usual at this season of the year when young birds are coming into production, the large proportion of medium eggs in total production results in an unfavorable producer price for that size in relation to large eggs.

The July-August decline--as much as 8 cents per dozen for Grade A Large at country points in Iowa--was contrary to the usual seasonal trends. By mid-September, Northeastern and Midwestern prices had fully recovered, and egg prices were at their highest levels since mid-January. Further price increases, however, will be hindered by the fact that the remaining period in which supplies of large fancy eggs are seasonally short will soon be over.

At 36.9 cents per dozen, the reported mid-August U. S. average price received by farmers for eggs was up slightly from the 36.5 cents of mid-July. The mid-month average does not reflect the rise and decline that occurred in quotations published in the interim. Individual quotations from important markets in mid-August were at their lows of the year to date.

Table 1 shows that a decline in egg future contract prices on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange preceded the decline in egg prices. The same table also shows that the price declines were sharper in the Midwest than in other parts of the United States. Table 2 shows that Canadian egg prices were steady during the period in which the U. S. price drop occurred, even though production in that country was larger than a year ago and imports of eggs from the United States were larger.

Storage Stocks Move Out Slowly for Shell and Frozen Egg

Storage stocks of both shell and frozen egg continue below last year, but by smaller margins than in July and August when stocks of shell and frozen egg were at their respective seasonal peaks. To late August, plentiful supplies and unseasonally low prices for fresh eggs limited the outmovement of shell eggs. Liquid egg in early and mid-August could be prepared from current production at about the same cost as frozen egg carried from the spring.

Stocks of shell eggs on September 1 were 1.0 million cases lower for the date than in any other year on record except 1953, when September 1 stocks totaled 0.8 million cases. However, on July 1, 1956, shell egg stocks of 1,453 thousand cases were very slightly below the 1,513 thousand of 1953. Stocks usually are at a peak on July 1 (table 7).

The September 1 stocks of frozen egg, 169 million pounds, were smaller than last year's 180 million, but larger than the 1951-55 average of 159 million pounds for that date. The principal difference between the September stocks of 1956 and 1955 is that this year there are at least 10 million pounds less of mixed whole egg (table 8). Compared with the 5-year average, the noteworthy difference is an increase of 6 million pounds of frozen yolk.

In recent years, price changes from spring to fall for frozen egg products have not shown a consistent seasonal trend. In some years, breakers have been unable to recover the costs including storage for eggs broken in the spring and sold in the fall (table 9). At the same time, shell egg storage is being reduced because of the flattening out of the seasonal production and price curves for eggs. As a consequence, preparation of frozen egg for storage in the spring may gradually diminish, although not to the extent that storage of shell eggs has declined.

Mid-year Laying Flock Larger Than in 1955

From mid-summer 1955 through May 1956, the laying flock was the same size or smaller than a year earlier. This reflected the 15 percent fewer replacement chicks raised in 1955 than in 1954. This reduction was largely offset by the greater number of hens retained for a second laying year.

The laying flock has now risen to a level higher than a year earlier. On September 1 there were 294 million layers on hand, compared with 285 million a year earlier. This increase results from the fact that 28 million more replacement chicks were hatched in January, February, and March than last year (tables 3 and 5). By September 1, about 10 million more laying pullets may have been available than on the same date in 1955, making generous allowance for cockerels and mortality among the 28 million extra replacement chicks. By September 1, practically all chicks hatched in January-March were old enough to be counted as layers. This probably explains the current increase over last year in the size of the laying flock. From all indications reduction in the number of hens and pullets on farms since January 1, 1956, has been at a rate corresponding to preceding years.

The replacement hatch in April-July exceeded 1955 by only 9 million. On September 1, the number of pullets not of laying age was only 3.8 million more than a year earlier. Consequently, most of the increase in the 1956-57 laying flock over 1955-56 already has occurred.

There is the possibility that culling in the last few months of 1956 will be more severe than in the same months of 1955, because of (a) the large number of hens presumably still in laying flocks and now completing their second year of laying (table 11) and (b) the expected lower level of egg prices toward the end of 1956 compared with corresponding months last year. It is significant to note that the 122 million hens on hand January 1, 1956, were 9 percent more than a year earlier. The next USDA breakdown of the flock into hens and pullets will be as of October 1. If heavier culling materializes, the laying flock at the beginning of 1957 may not be significantly larger than the 332 million layers (hens and pullets) of January 1, 1956 (table 11).

The rate of lay per bird this fall and winter is likely to continue its long-time upward trend and to exceed year-ago levels. Last year, even the retention of hens, with lower production rates than pullets, failed to offset the year-to-year tendencies toward higher rate of lay (table 5). Since the flock size is unlikely to fall below a year ago during the remainder of 1956 and rate of lay is expected to be higher, monthly egg production probably will exceed a year earlier the rest of this year and for at least a month or two into 1957.

Continued Large Supplies of Commercial Broilers

Although broiler chick placements declined from June through mid-September, the decreased supplies for the remainder of 1956 are likely to be offset by the usual seasonal decline in demand. Broiler prices are likely to stay close to current levels during the rest of this year. Slaughter in the remainder of the year will continue about one-fifth above 1955.

In most past years, broiler prices of the last quarter have been the lowest of the year, often by a considerable margin (table 14). Broiler prices so far this year, however, have been so low that only small further price declines could divert a good deal of retail demand to chicken from red meats. This would head off any further substantial price declines, particularly since supplies of pork and of fed beef this fall will be smaller than in 1955, and prices are expected to be higher than last year. The increase in turkey slaughter will be only a partial offset to the reduced supply of red meats.

In mid-August the U. S. average farmers' price of broilers was 19.6 cents per pound, 2 cents lower than the month before, 7 cents below August 1955, and a cent below the October-December average in 1955.

Out-of-pocket production costs of most producers are probably covered by broiler prices at the levels of early September. But it is unlikely that those prices provide any substantial allowance for the farmer's labor or for his overhead costs. (Toward mid-September, Georgia prices at the farm fell to 16 cents per pound, which probably falls below out-of-pocket costs for most independent producers.) Accordingly, it is difficult to envision continued short-run expansion of facilities for broiler production in the U. S. as a whole. In particular situations, however, it is possible that well-financed corporations planning the development of integrated broiler operations may encourage construction of additional growing facilities. Integrated operations are those where breeding, hatching, feed mixing, rearing of the broilers, slaughter, and marketing are accomplished entirely or in large part under one coordinated management.

The greater continuity which overhead expenses enforce upon large organizations than upon small ones is a factor in the present sustained broiler output. Through financing, the individual producer is brought into the integrated operation, and by the shifting of risk to the larger organization, he willingly undertakes production under circumstances that would give him considerable pause if he were an independent operator.

Record Turkey Crop: Largest Increase in Heavy Birds

New crop marketings have been under way for some months from the 76.3 million bird 1956 turkey crop, but the volume of marketings has only recently built up to a point which caused a decline from the prices prevailing for the 1955 crop. The 1955 crop was smaller than the year before; storage holdings from it were quickly reduced to the smallest in 5 years, and average prices to farmers for turkeys in each of the 12 months through June 1956 were higher than a year earlier.

Starting from this favorable position, U. S. average farmers' prices for turkeys to mid-August had declined only moderately and were close to year-ago levels (table 19). However, quotations at country points are below both last year's prices and the recent monthly highs by wider amounts than indicated by comparisons based on the latest available U. S. average prices. The mid-August U. S. average price was 28.7 cents per pound compared with 29.5 cents last August and 28.9 cents in July this year. In the Central Valley of California, mid-September quotations were as follows with year-ago prices shown in parentheses: hens, heavy type, 27½-28 cents per pound (32); toms, heavy type, 23½-24 cents (28-30½); and broiler-fryer type turkeys, 28 cents (32). California is the largest turkey-producing State.

On September 7, the Secretary of Agriculture announced that the Department would conduct a program to buy turkeys for School Lunch and similar outlets with the intention of stabilizing prices during the heavy marketing season.

Prices for turkeys to mid-August were above those of the same period of 1954--the year in which the previous record crop was produced. Meanwhile, though slightly higher than a year earlier, feed prices are more favorable to feeders than in 1954. The mid-August turkey-feed price ratio was 7.8 pounds (poultry ration that could be bought with one pound of turkey) compared with August ratios of 8.3 in 1955 and 7.1 in 1954.

Breakdowns of the 1956 crop are available according to breed type as reported by commercial hatcheries. The total crop of 76.3 million turkeys being raised is 16 percent larger than the 65.6 million birds raised last year. The 1956 total is comprised of 62.8 million heavy-breed turkeys (up 29 percent from last year) and 13.6 million light-breed birds (down 19 percent from last year). Of this year's hatchings of heavy-breed birds to date, 24 percent were white-feathered. This is the first year in which data are reported for heavy-breed white turkeys, which may be slaughtered at either heavy or light weights.

Figures on turkeys as the market would classify them are carried in table 20 for 1954, 1955, and 1956. It is assumed that half the heavy-breed white turkeys are sold as fryers and the remainder as mature birds. Tentative estimates are made for the number of heavy-breed white turkeys raised in previous years. The table indicates a 20 percent increase over 1955 in the number of heavy turkeys sold and an increase of 8 percent in the number of small turkeys.

On the basis assumed for computation in the table, the annual supply of lightweight turkeys available since 1954, regardless of breed, would seem to be fairly steady, despite the decline in hatchings of Beltsville Small Whites. Among heavy turkeys, by the same arithmetic, there may have been about a 5 percent decline in numbers in 1955 from 1954, instead of an unchanged number as indicated by the number reported raised according to the breed classification.

After allowance for the likely increase in the amount of turkey to be stored from the current crop, a per capita consumption of about 5 1/2 pounds (ready-to-cook weight) is likely for 1956. This compares with 5 pounds in 1955 and 5 1/4 pounds in 1954. Not much of the increased consumption has yet been accomplished because the 18 percent increase in 1956 turkey slaughter to September 1 was about offset by reduced amounts that were available from cold storage. The net decline from January 1 to September 1 in cold storage holdings was 73 million pounds in 1955, but only 44 million pounds in 1956.

Poultry Ration Costs Above A Year Ago

Poultry ration costs to farmers rose steadily to mid-August from the end of 1955 when they had been at their lowest level in 6 years. In mid-August, the U. S. average value of poultry ration was $3.66 per hundredweight, 3 percent higher than a year earlier and 9 percent higher than the low in November 1955. Poultry ration is a combination of purchased mixed feeds, ingredients, and homegrown grains.

Mixed poultry feeds purchased by farmers have shown similar upward price trends. Laying mash, at $4.57 per hundredweight in mid-August, was 1 percent above a year earlier and 5 percent above its December low. Broiler mash, at $5.10, was 3 percent higher than last August and 7 percent above the 1955 low (table 23).

To a considerable extent these prices for mixed feeds reflect changes in the quotations for their basic ingredients. Corn prices dropped to a seasonal low in November last year, then rose gradually in the winter and sharply in the spring. In September 1956, corn was at its highest price of the season to date, with prospects for a seasonal decline during the next few weeks as new corn becomes available in increased quantity.

Soybean meal prices have declined considerably from their peak reached in May-June 1956 and are now at a level reflecting anticipated larger supplies from the 1956 harvests. The lower price for meal may have been a factor holding down the price increases on mixed feeds to only a few cents per hundredweight in August-September.

On the basis of current and prospective prices of these important ingredients, costs of mixed poultry feeds are not likely to rise appreciably in the next few months and may even decline slightly, while the anticipated seasonal decline in the price of corn is likely to bring down the value of "poultry ration."

The next issue of The Poultry and Egg Situation, scheduled for release on November 19, will be the 1957 Outlook issue.

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Table 1.- Prices of large eggs, per dozen, specified grades and markets, Mondays, July 2, 1956 to date

Date	New York City: Nearby whites	New York City: Mid-western mixed colors	Chicago: Mixed colors	San Francisco: Grade A	Los Angeles: 40 Percent AA	Toronto, Canada 1/: Grade A	Chicago future contracts, September delivery
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
July 2	44-46	40½-41	38-38½	41-42	36½-38	52	39.05
9	44-46	41-42	38½-39	42-43	38-39½	56-57	38.45
16	47-49	42½-43½	41-41½	44-45	40-41	59	40.35
23	48-50	44-45½	43-43½	46-47	43-44	61-62	40.25
30	47-49	45½-46½	43-43½	47-48	45-45½	59-60	38.65
Aug. 6	44-46	42-43	37½-38	47-48	41½-42½	59	34.30
13	49-51½	42-43	36½-37	47-48	41½-42½	59	31.85
20	50-52	38-39	35-35½	47-48	40	61-62	30.95
27	49½-51½	36½-38	36-36½	44-45	37½-38	58	31.05
Sept. 4	54-56½	45-46	42½-43½	44-47	39-41½	57-58	33.65
10	54-54½	45-47	44-44½	48-49	41½-42½	58	33.30
17	56-59	49½-50½	47-47½	51-52	46-47½		35.30
24							

1/ Tuesday prices, Canadian currency.

Table 2.- Eggs: Canadian egg prices and supply, including imports from United States, summer 1956 with comparisons

Week of: 1/	Wholesale price per dozen, grade A large Toronto, Tuesdays 2/: 1954	1955	1956	Receipts at registered grading stations: 1954	1955	1956	Imports from United States: 1954	1955	1956
	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Thou. cases			Cases
July 7	52	58-59	52	101	99	104	3/n.a.	0	1,998
14	55-56	59	56-57	98	93	106	n.a.	0	1,300
21	54	53	59	97	90	103	n.a.	0	550
28	48-49	58	61-62	97	88	105	n.a.	0	2,056
Aug. 4	43-44	62	59-60	92	84	104	n.a.	0	1,966
11	46	70	59	95	87	98	n.a.	0	2,200
18	48	64	59	97	85	104	n.a.	0	6,275
25	49	64	61-62	97	89	103	n.a.	0	5,068
Sept. 1	52	59	58	102	90	105	n.a.	0	6,111
8	50	65	57-58	98	89	102	n.a.	0	1,072
15	56	66-67	58	104	93				
22				102	93				
29				101	96				

1/ Dates are for 1956; for 1954 and 1955, corresponding weeks.

2/ Canadian Currency.

3/ Not available.

Table 3.- Measures of changes in the volume of fresh egg supply, summer and fall, 1954 to date

Year	Unit	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
			(a) Index of production of eggs on farms, first day of month, June 1954=100				
1954		100	87	79	80	85	90
1955		103	93	83	81	87	91
1956		103	93	89	86		
			(b) Average weekly receipts of shell eggs in 4 cities				
1954	Thou. cases	248	186	179	190	191	192
1955	Thou. cases	221	199	172	182	193	196
1956	Thou. cases	253	187	190	1/176		
			(c) Egg receipts, first full week of month, at Iowa assembling plants, as a percentage of preceding week				
1954	Pct.	112	83	102	92	96	100
1955	Pct.	103	87	86	96	95	105
1956	Pct.	114	90	94	96		

1/ Three weeks.

Table 4.- Eggs: Prices per dozen, summer and fall of 1954, 1955, and 1956 to date 1/

Date	New York City											
	1954				1955				1956 2/			
	Mid-western large, mixed colors	Nearby whites			Mid-western large, mixed colors	Nearby whites			Mid-western large, mixed colors	Nearby whites		
		Large	Medium	Small		Large	Medium	Small		Large	Medium	Small
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
July 1	37	45	33	25	41½	48½	43	36	41	46	38½	27
August 1	42½	45	33	25½	45½	58	45	31	44	47½	40	30
September 1	43	51	30½	23	50	55	43	30½	46	56½	34	24
October 1	49	53	26½	20	50	55	44	30	(50)	(57)	(39)	(24¾)
November 1	44	50	28½	25½	49	55	36	28				
December 1	34½	38	30½	28	52	56	46	39½				

Date	1954			1955			1956		
	Iowa country points, Grade A, large 3/	San Francisco, Grade A large	Chicago, future contracts, October delivery	Iowa country points, Grade A, large	San Francisco, Grade A large	Chicago, future contracts, October delivery	Iowa country points, Grade A, large	San Francisco, Grade A large	Chicago, future contracts, October delivery
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
July 1	27	46.5	38.00	32	43.5	42.20	30	42	39.45
August 1	32	48.5	37.90	34	45.5	37.35	37	48	36.40
September 1	30	53.5	31.65	40	52.5	38.65	34	47	34.30
October 1	39	48.5	26.35	41	56.5	37.60	(38-40)	(53½)	(36.20)
November 1	32	45.5	38.40	41	51.5	40.25			
December 1	26	42.5	37.45	42	54.5	43.00 B			

1/ Prices quoted are the top of the range.
2/ September 18 prices shown in parentheses.
3/ Friday of given week.

Table 5 .- Number of layers on farms, rate of egg production, and total egg output on farms, monthly data, June 1953 to date

Item year	Unit	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May
						(a) Monthly average data							
Average number of layers on hand													
1953-54	Mil.	283	273	274	295	322	339	346	343	334	322	309	295
1954-55	do.	283	276	283	307	331	342	345	338	328	319	306	294
1955-56	do.	283	276	280	299	321	331	334	331	324	315	304	294
1956-57	do.	284	281	288									
Eggs laid per 100 layers													
1953-54	Eggs	1,663	1,589	1,481	1,341	1,357	1,339	1,424	1,484	1,498	1,837	1,819	1,847
1954-55	do.	1,672	1,579	1,475	1,366	1,384	1,376	1,482	1,548	1,491	1,800	1,844	1,900
1955-56	do.	1,751	1,672	1,536	1,418	1,444	1,412	1,492	1,561	1,586	1,832	1,839	1,891
1956-57	do.	1,745	1,693	1,585									
Total monthly egg production													
1953-54	Mil. cases	13.1	12.1	11.3	11.0	12.2	12.6	13.7	14.2	13.9	16.4	15.6	15.1
1954-55	do.	13.1	12.1	11.6	11.7	12.7	13.1	14.2	14.5	13.6	15.9	15.7	15.5
1955-56	do.	13.8	12.8	11.9	11.8	12.9	13.0	13.8	14.3	14.3	16.0	15.5	15.4
1956-57	do.	13.8	13.2	12.7									
						(b) First-of-month data							
Number of layers on hand													
1953-54	Mil.	289	277	270	279	311	334	346	347	339	328	316	301
1954-55	do.	289	277	274	291	323	339	346	344	332	325	312	300
1955-56	do.	287	278	274	285	314	328	335	332	329	319	309	299
1956-57	do.	288	280	281	294								
Eggs laid per 100 layers													
1953-54	Eggs	57.9	53.0	49.6	46.0	43.5	44.2	45.1	46.8	48.9	58.1	60.4	60.8
1954-55	do.	58.3	53.1	48.6	46.5	44.5	44.8	46.9	48.7	51.1	55.4	60.7	62.3
1955-56	do.	60.3	56.6	51.2	47.9	46.6	46.6	47.6	48.7	52.0	57.4	60.8	61.8
1956-57	do.	60.3	56.1	53.2	49.0								
Daily rate of egg production													
1953-54	Mil. eggs	167	147	134	128	135	148	156	162	166	191	191	183
1954-55	do.	169	147	133	135	144	152	162	168	170	190	190	187
1955-56	do.	173	157	140	137	146	153	159	162	171	183	188	185
1956-57	do.	174	157	150	144								

Table 6 .- Eggs: Prices, farm (including seasonal adjustment), retail, and per capita disappearance, monthly, January 1953 to date

Month	U. S. average price received by farmers, per dozen		Seasonal adjustment factor 1/	U. S. average retail price, per dozen (AMS)	Farm-retail price spread 2/	Civilian per capita disappearance, shell only
	As reported	Seasonally adjusted				
	Cents	Cents	Percent	Cents	Cents	Eggs
1953						
Jan.	45.8	47.7	96	64.9	17.7	33.0
Feb.	42.0	48.3	87	59.8	16.5	28.6
Mar.	44.7	51.4	87	68.5	17.5	32.2
Apr.	45.5	52.3	87	64.0	17.1	30.3
May	45.9	51.6	89	64.0	16.7	29.4
June	45.7	50.2	91	65.1	18.0	27.3
July	47.7	48.2	99	67.8	18.7	27.8
Aug.	50.2	46.9	107	69.9	18.2	26.5
Sept.	51.4	45.5	113	73.1	20.2	25.8
Oct.	53.2	45.5	117	74.7	19.9	28.0
Nov.	49.7	42.5	117	68.6	17.4	29.1
Dec.	48.5	42.9	113	66.5	16.5	31.3
1954						
Jan.	46.3	48.7	95	65.1	17.4	30.9
Feb.	45.7	52.5	87	64.3	17.2	27.8
Mar.	38.7	44.5	87	56.7	16.8	30.8
Apr.	35.0	40.2	87	53.8	17.8	30.0
May	33.1	37.6	88	52.2	18.1	29.6
June	33.0	36.7	90	50.9	16.9	26.4
July	34.5	34.8	99	54.6	19.1	27.0
Aug.	37.4	35.0	107	58.0	19.5	26.7
Sept.	33.8	29.9	113	56.0	21.2	26.4
Oct.	32.4	27.9	116	56.1	22.7	28.9
Nov.	33.9	29.5	115	54.6	19.7	30.1
Dec.	32.7	29.2	112	51.5	17.8	32.0
1955						
Jan.	32.2	34.3	94	50.1	16.9	30.8
Feb.	39.5	45.9	86	57.8	17.1	27.5
Mar.	39.7	45.1	88	59.0	18.1	30.5
Apr.	35.9	40.3	89	53.3	16.3	28.6
May	33.8	37.6	90	51.6	16.8	28.0
June	33.8	37.1	91	51.5	16.7	26.4
July	35.2	35.2	100	55.0	18.7	26.8
Aug.	39.4	36.5	108	61.4	20.8	27.0
Sept.	43.8	39.5	111	64.4	19.3	26.8
Oct.	42.9	37.6	114	64.1	19.9	28.9
Nov.	43.4	38.1	114	62.4	17.7	29.5
Dec.	47.1	42.4	111	66.2	17.7	30.8
1956						
Jan.	46.6	49.6	94	65.5	17.5	30.4
Feb.	40.2	46.7	86	58.0	16.6	28.4
Mar.	39.6	44.5	89	58.1	17.3	30.5
Apr.	38.5	42.8	90	56.5	16.8	28.1
May	37.5	41.2	91	55.6	17.0	27.2
June	36.3	39.5	92	54.0	16.6	25.4
July	36.5	36.9	99	55.9	18.3	3/ 27.2
Aug.	36.9	34.2	108			

1/ For September 1956 and the following months through June 1957, the seasonal adjustment factors are, respectively: 111, 113, 113, 110, 94, 88, 90, 91, 91, and 92.

2/ Includes allowance for breakage and loss.

3/ Preliminary.

Table 7 .- Storage stocks of shell eggs, during the out-of-storage season, United States and 35 principal cities, 1953 to date

Date 1/	Stocks as reported				Decrease from previous week or month			
	1953	1954	1955	1956	1953 2/	1954 2/	1955 2/	1956 2/
	Thousand cases	Thousand cases	Thousand cases	Thousand cases	Thousand cases	Thousand cases	Thousand cases	Thousand cases
	(a) United States, first of month							
July 1	1,513	1,639	2,292	1,453	(82)	(291)	(204)	(253)
August 1	1,199	1,435	2,244	1,259	314	204	48	194
September 1	827	1,031	1,680	1,014	372	404	564	245
October 1	494	833	1,140		333	198	540	
November 1	288	636	804		206	197	336	
December 1	137	325	333		151	311	471	
	(b) 35 principal cities, weekly							
June 30	1,047	1,219	1,783	1,182	7	(17)	(3)	(30)
July 7	1,033	1,200	1,782	1,176	14	19	1	6
14	991	1,151	1,769	1,153	42	49	13	23
21	935	1,084	1,760	1,111	56	67	9	42
28	859	1,031	1,728	1,054	76	53	32	57
August 4	802	979	1,675	1,024	57	52	53	30
11	718	916	1,584	990	84	63	91	34
18	647	858	1,477	952	71	58	107	38
25	585	794	1,376	910	62	64	101	42
September 1	537	755	1,276	844	48	39	100	66
8	511	716	1,208	782	26	39	68	62
15	431	680	1,086	710	80	36	122	72
22	377	616	985		54	64	101	
29	304	593	919		73	23	66	
October 6	261	581	854		43	12	65	
13	223	544	806		38	37	48	
20	203	503	741		20	41	65	
27	182	465	673		21	38	68	
November 3	168	414	594		14	51	79	
10	147	363	517		21	51	77	
17	115	308	428		32	55	89	
24	93	263	342		22	45	86	
December 1	77	232	261		16	31	81	

1/ Weekly dates are for 1956; other years, comparable weeks.
2/ Parentheses denote increases.

Table 8 .- First-of-month storage stocks of frozen egg by type, during out-of-storage season, United States, 1953 to date

Date	Stocks as reported				Decrease from previous month			
	1953	1954	1955	1956	1953 1/	1954 1/	1955 1/	1956 1/
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
				(a) Mixed whole egg 2/				
July 1	71.1	77.8	84.6	72.7	(15.8)	(7.9)	(10.4)	(13.6)
August 1	68.9	78.2	86.5	74.4	2.2	(0.4)	(1.9)	(1.7)
September 1	60.9	70.6	82.4	71.9	8.0	7.6	4.1	2.5
October 1	49.4	61.1	72.4		11.4	9.5	10.0	
November 1	38.1	51.9	59.2		11.3	9.2	13.2	
December 1	25.7	41.0	46.2		12.4	10.9	12.9	
				(b) Frozen yolk 2/				
July 1	36.1	42.8	52.6	46.7	(4.6)	(4.6)	(7.7)	(6.7)
August 1	34.1	40.4	51.8	48.5	1.9	2.4	0.9	(1.8)
September 1	29.2	36.5	48.3	44.6	4.9	3.9	3.4	4.0
October 1	24.6	31.5	43.7		4.6	4.9	4.6	
November 1	19.7	27.0	36.7		4.9	4.5	7.0	
December 1	14.7	21.6	30.6		5.0	5.5	6.1	
				(c) Frozen albumen 2/				
July 1	51.8	65.6	56.7	53.0	(6.2)	(6.7)	(4.9)	(12.0)
August 1	49.8	62.2	56.4	54.5	2.0	3.4	0.3	(1.5)
September 1	43.4	53.7	49.2	52.8	6.4	8.4	7.3	1.7
October 1	35.9	46.1	39.3		7.5	7.6	9.9	
November 1	29.1	39.0	32.0		6.8	7.2	7.3	
December 1	20.6	32.1	24.6		8.5	6.9	7.5	

1/ Parentheses denote increases.
2/ Amounts as reported plus a pro-rate of the quantity reported as "unclassified".

Table 9 .- Frozen egg: Carlot prices, per pound, New York City, 1951 to date

Year	Average for first full week in month of -											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.
	(a) Mixed whole egg 1/											
1951	2/39.5	36.8	36.0	35.0	39.2	36.8	36.2	36.0	37.0	37.0	35.0	35.8
1952	34.2	31.2	30.5	28.0	28.8	30.0	32.5	34.2	34.0	32.5	33.2	35.5
1953	36.0	34.5	36.0	37.2	39.8	38.2	37.5	39.2	40.0	40.5	39.2	39.5
1954	38.5	37.2	35.0	28.5	28.8	28.0	26.5	27.0	25.8	25.0	24.5	24.8
1955	26.0	30.0	33.8	28.2	29.2	28.5	29.0	28.9	29.5	30.5	28.8	31.0
1956	34.2	31.8	33.0	31.8	33.0	31.0	32.0	32.0	31.2			
	(b) Frozen yolk 3/											
1951	55.0	2/57.0	2/61.2	56.2	61.8	59.5	60.5	60.5	60.5	60.5	60.5	61.0
1952	60.0	50.5	51.0	46.5	50.8	50.2	50.0	51.0	50.5	49.5	48.0	44.0
1953	45.0	45.2	49.5	50.5	56.0	55.5	55.5	55.5	59.5	60.5	2/63.0	2/65.0
1954	2/65.5	61.5	61.0	48.0	49.0	49.5	51.5	53.0	55.2	54.0	54.0	52.5
1955	53.0	52.0	55.0	50.2	53.0	52.0	52.0	51.0	52.5	54.5	54.0	54.0
1956	54.5	54.5	53.0	50.5	51.0	49.5	51.5	53.0	53.0			
	(c) Frozen albumen											
1951	21.5	22.5	2/28.0	25.0	27.0	25.0	25.2	23.0	25.8	25.8	26.0	27.8
1952	27.8	20.2	17.5	17.2	19.0	22.8	2/31.8	31.0	31.5	31.5	33.2	35.2
1953	35.2	35.0	33.0	32.0	33.8	32.8	31.8	30.8	32.5	33.2	29.8	28.2
1954	25.2	22.8	22.5	19.2	19.2	17.0	14.0	16.0	14.5	13.8	14.2	15.2
1955	15.8	19.0	21.5	18.8	19.0	19.5	22.0	20.0	21.5	23.5	23.5	24.2
1956	26.5	28.0	27.5	23.8	23.8	23.2	23.0	22.2	21.5			

1/ Spring pack when separately quoted. 2/ L.c.l.; carlot price not quoted. 3/ Highest color quoted; 45 percent solids.

Table 10.- Indications of laying flock replacement, 1956 with comparisons

Item	Unit	As reported			1956 as a percentage of 1955	
		1954	1955	1956	For the month or year	Cumulative
Farmers' intentions to buy chicks	Percentage of year before	100	82	103		
Sexed chicks purchased	Percentage of total purchases	43	42	1/ 43		
Hatchery output of replacement chicks						
January	Mil.	---	32.9	40.7	124	124
February	Mil.	---	71.2	86.0	121	122
March	Mil.	2/ 202.5	148.8	153.8	103	111
April	Mil.	2/ 192.2	163.9	165.3	101	107
May	Mil.	2/ 109.8	107.9	113.1	105	107
June	Mil.	2/ 34.1	32.7	35.2	108	107
Chicks and young chickens on farms, first of month						
April 1	Mil.	230	170	178	105	
May 1	Mil.	346	274	280	102	
June 1	Mil.	409	329	333	101	
July 1	Mil.	476	3/	3/	---	
Chickens raised	Mil.	540	462	4/ 472	102	
Pullets on farms Jan. 1 following	Mil.	257	238			

1/ Intentions.
2/ Derived figures.
3/ July estimates for this series have been discontinued.
4/ Preliminary.

Table 11.- Composition of the laying flock, October 1 and January 1, and chickens raised, 1945 to date

Year	Potential layers on farms, January 1				Chickens raised	Potential layers on farms, October 1					Potential layers on farms, January 1 following				
	Hens	Pullets		Total 1/		Hens	Pullets			Total 1/	Hens	Pullets			Total 1/
		Laying	Not yet laying				Laying	Not yet laying	All pullets			Laying	Not yet laying	All pullets	
	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.
1945	172	254	47	474	890	214	128	243	371	584	151	269	53	322	473
1946	151	269	53	473	738	202	126	199	325	527	150	244	37	281	431
1947	150	244	37	431	719	198	131	195	326	524	140	243	35	278	418
1948	140	243	35	418	615	193	125	176	301	494	141	227	31	258	399
1949	141	227	31	399	705	184	140	185	324	509	137	255	32	287	424
1950	137	255	32	424	620	189	141	142	283	472	141	229	29	258	399
1951	141	229	29	399	623	179	143	144	288	467	136	231	30	261	397
1952	136	231	30	397	561	172	142	117	259	431	135	215	23	238	373
1953	135	215	23	373	548	156	154	112	266	422	116	231	24	255	371
1954	116	231	24	371	540	154	168	104	273	427	111	233	25	257	369
1955	111	233	25	369	462	166	148	94	242	408	122	211	27	238	360
1956	122	211	27	360	472										

1/ Obtained from unrounded figures.

Table 12.- Frozen egg: Breakdown of September 1 storage stocks; average 1950-54, 1955, and 1956

Description	1950-54	1955	1956
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Frozen egg			
Albumen	43.7	46.6	50.1
Yolk	32.5	45.7	42.3
Mixed whole egg and blend	69.4	77.9	68.2
Unclassified	8.5	9.8	8.5

Table 13.- Broilers: Prices in selected areas, September 17, 1956, with comparisons, and weekly chick placements related to those prices

Area	Average weekly placements 10-12 weeks prior to:		Prices received by farmers, per pound		
			Sept. 15, 1955		Sept. 17, 1956
	Sept. 15, 1955 1/	Sept. 15, 1956	Market News quotation, "mostly"	Mid-month farm price for principal State in Area	Market News quotation, "mostly"
	Thousands	Thousands	Cents	Cents	Cents
Maine	696	983	23-24	25.0	17-18
Connecticut	552	597	24.0	26.0	18-19
Indiana	771	888	25-29.0	26.0	18-19
Del-Mar-Va	3,339	3,558	25-25.5	26.2	20-20¼
Shenandoah Valley	1,161	1,084	24-25	24.0	18.0
North Carolina (C and W)	1,510	1,691	24.0	24.0	18.0
Georgia	4,192	5,203	24.0	24.5	17½-18½
Florida	214	260		26.5	18½
Alabama	1,394	1,814	24.0	25.0	18.0
Mississippi	898	1,286	24-25.5	24.5	18.0
Texas	1,815	2,180	24-25	25.5	17-18
Oregon	150	208		27.0	
California	1,070	1,060	27-29	29.5	20-21
13 areas	17,762	20,812			

1/ Revised

Table 14.- Broilers: Prices per pound, selected areas, January 1954 to date

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.
(a) Mid-month average price received by farmers, live												
1954	24.2	22.6	23.5	24.3	23.7	24.4	25.4	24.9	23.0	21.0	20.1	19.2
1955	24.4	25.4	29.7	28.4	27.0	27.2	26.5	26.9	25.2	22.0	21.2	19.4
1956	20.3	21.4	21.9	20.5	21.1	19.9	21.7	19.6				
(b) Del-Mar-Va, average price, live 1/												
1954	22.2	20.9	21.9	25.1	21.8	24.7	25.3	25.0	24.1	18.0	21.8	19.1
1955	25.1	26.9	29.8	32.0	25.2	28.1	28.0	28.0	26.9	20.8	18.7	19.7
1956	21.5	22.9	22.9	20.9	21.2	19.1	22.9	19.3	18.4			
(c) North Georgia, price at farm, live 1/												
1954	22.0	22.0	23.3	23.8	21.4	22.2	24.5	25.2	22.6	18.2	21.0	18.7
1955	22.0	23.7	28.1	29.9	25.3	26.5	24.3	26.0	25.0	21.0	21.1	18.7
1956	21.3	21.1	21.0	19.6	20.0	18.2	21.5	18.7	18.7			
(d) San Joaquin Valley of California, country paying price 1/												
1954	25.4	26.5	25.0	24.5	24.1	28.4	25.5	28.5	24.6	24.0	24.2	21.5
1955	22.4	26.0	30.6	33.0	27.5	30.0	28.0	29.0	28.1	23.8	21.0	20.7
1956	21.1	22.1	21.1	21.6	22.0	22.0	23.5	23.0	21.5			
(e) Chicago, eviscerated broilers, wholesale 1/												
1954	39.7	37.4	39.1	39.2	36.1	37.7	40.5	41.1	37.6	32.5	35.4	32.5
1955	35.8	38.8	45.2	47.2	41.0	42.6	39.8	42.2	32.6	35.2	34.2	32.2
1956	36.3	35.9	35.8	33.6	33.6	32.0	35.2	32.5	30.1			
(f) New York, New York dressed broilers, 2½ lbs., wholesale 1/												
1954	30.1	28.4	28.6	32.2	29.3	30.6	31.0	30.2	30.2	25.0	26.7	25.0
1955	31.7	32.7	35.6	37.0	31.2	35.0	34.1	33.0	33.4	25.9	26.8	24.2
1956	27.4	27.0	27.4	25.0	26.6	26.8	28.1	24.8	24.2			

1/ First full week of month.

Table 15.- Turkeys: Number raised and sold, and prices received by farmers, 1948 to date

Year	Turkeys raised by breed type			Turkeys sold from farms		Price received by farmers, per pound, liveweight			
							Simple average		
	Heavy	Light	Total	By head	By weight (live)	Wtd. average, calendar year	Calendar year	Year beginning Oct.	4 months, Oct. through following Jan.
	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil. lb.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.
1948			31.5	30.0	549	46.8	41.0	41.0	47.4
1949			41.3	39.8	748	35.2	38.0	31.9	34.0
1950			44.4	43.6	809	32.8	31.5	34.6	33.1
1951			53.3	51.7	927	37.4	35.9	34.8	37.6
1952			62.3	62.1	1,049	33.6	33.8	33.0	33.7
1953	43.4	16.4	59.8	59.1	1,000	33.6	33.1	31.8	33.7
1954	48.5	19.2	67.7	66.9	1,149	28.8	30.5	29.2	28.1
1955	48.8	16.8	65.6	64.8	1,080	30.2	29.7		30.6
1956	62.8	13.6	76.3						

Table 16.- Turkeys: Number raised, by breed types, by regions, 1954 to date

Region	Light breeds			Heavy breeds			Total		
	1954	1955	1956	1954	1955	1956	1954	1955	1956
	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.
N. Atlantic	1.2	1.0	0.6	4.4	4.1	4.1	5.6	5.1	4.6
E. N. Central	2.4	2.3	1.7	6.7	6.7	8.4	9.0	9.0	10.0
W. N. Central	5.1	3.8	2.5	12.3	13.5	18.7	17.4	17.3	21.2
S. Atlantic	6.8	6.3	5.9	5.7	5.0	6.7	12.5	11.3	12.6
S. Central	1.5	1.3	1.2	5.0	5.1	7.5	6.5	6.4	8.8
Western	2.2	2.0	1.7	14.3	14.5	17.4	16.5	16.5	19.1
United States	19.2	16.8	13.6	48.5	48.8	62.8	67.7	65.6	76.3

Table 17.- Turkeys: Monthly hatchings, by breed types, lagged to indicate prospective month of marketing

Month	Heavy breed hatchings six months previous				Light breed hatchings four months previous				All turkeys: sum of preceding columns 1/			
	1954	1955	1956	1957	1954	1955	1956	1957	1954	1955	1956	1957
	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.
January	1.2	1.4	2.1	3.0	0.4	0.7	0.4		1.6	2.1	2.5	
February	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.7	.4	.7	.3		0.5	0.8	0.6	
March	2/	2/	.1		.7	1.0	.5		.7	1.1	.6	
April	2/	.1	.2		1.3	1.7	.9		1.3	1.7	1.1	
May	.1	.2	.4		1.8	1.4	.9		1.9	1.5	1.3	
June	.3	.5	1.0		1.7	1.1	.8		2.0	1.6	1.8	
July	1.2	1.2	1.9		1.8	1.1	1.0		3.0	2.3	2.9	
August	3.4	2.7	4.8		2.3	1.8	1.5		5.7	4.5	6.3	
September	9.4	7.8	11.1		3.3	2.4	2.3		12.7	10.3	13.4	
October	13.9	12.8	15.7		3.0	2.6	2.4		16.9	15.4	18.1	
November	13.4	14.8	16.9		2.4	2.2	2.2		15.9	17.0	19.1	
December	7.7	9.0	10.7		1.3	1.2	1.1		9.1	10.2	11.8	

1/ Obtained from unrounded figures. Totals may not add due to rounding.

2/ Less than 0.05 million.

Table 18.- Turkeys raised by regions and principal States, 1955 and 1956

Region and State	1955 1/			1956 2/			Difference, 1956 from 1955					
							Number			Percent		
	Heavy breeds	Light breeds	All turkeys	Heavy breeds	Light breeds	All turkeys	Heavy breeds	Light breeds	All turkeys	Heavy breeds	Light breeds	All turkeys
	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
North Atl.	4,060	1,026	5,086	4,056	591	4,647	-4	-435	-439	0	-42	-9
Pa.	1,645	652	2,297	1,645	422	2,067	0	-230	-230	0	-35	-10
E. N. Cent.	6,666	2,319	8,985	8,358	1,682	10,040	1,692	-637	1,055	25	-27	12
Ohio	2,062	896	2,958	2,514	681	3,195	452	-215	237	22	-24	8
Ind.	1,324	632	1,956	1,519	398	1,917	195	-234	-39	15	-37	-2
Wis.	1,656	555	2,211	2,359	361	2,720	703	-194	509	42	-35	23
W. N. Cent.	13,472	3,839	17,311	18,714	2,526	21,240	5,242	-1,313	3,929	39	-34	23
Minn.	5,391	2,643	8,034	7,950	1,610	9,560	2,559	-1,033	1,526	47	-39	19
Iowa	4,190	263	4,453	5,432	312	5,744	1,242	49	1,291	30	19	29
Mo.	1,853	589	2,442	2,723	378	3,101	870	-211	659	47	-36	27
S. Atl.	4,983	6,286	11,269	6,707	5,851	12,558	1,724	-435	1,289	35	-7	11
Va.	1,910	3,619	5,529	2,540	3,763	6,303	630	144	774	33	4	14
W. Va.	529	1,107	1,636	786	1,014	1,800	257	-93	164	49	-8	10
S. Cent.	5,084	1,287	6,371	7,537	1,228	8,765	2,453	-59	2,394	48	-5	38
Ark.	1,136	421	1,557	1,743	484	2,227	607	63	670	53	15	43
Texas	2,621	411	3,032	4,061	396	4,457	1,440	-15	1,425	55	-4	47
West.	14,508	2,028	16,536	17,386	1,704	19,090	2,878	-324	2,554	20	-16	15
Utah	2,033	739	2,772	2,322	395	2,717	289	-344	-55	14	-47	-2
Oreg.	1,290	245	1,535	1,233	195	1,428	-57	-50	-107	-4	-20	-7
Calif.	9,353	843	10,196	11,685	958	12,643	2,332	115	2,447	25	14	24
United States	48,773	16,785	65,558	62,758	13,582	76,340	13,985	-3,203	10,782	29	-19	16

1/ Revised.
2/ Preliminary.

Table 19.- Turkey prices, per pound: Selected series, August 1952 to date

Season	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
					(a) U. S. average farm price, mid-month, (live)							
1952-53	32.6	33.2	32.9	33.7	34.6	33.6	33.3	33.6	33.3	32.5	31.7	32.3
1953-54	32.7	32.4	33.3	33.9	34.5	33.2	33.9	33.6	33.3	31.0	31.3	28.6
1954-55	27.8	27.6	27.0	28.5	29.6	27.4	29.5	30.4	29.7	28.9	29.4	29.6
1955-56	29.5	31.0	31.2	29.8	30.5	31.0	31.4	32.1	30.9	30.8	29.8	28.9
1956-57	28.7											
					(b) Live, heavy type young toms, San Joaquin Valley, California 1/							
1952-53	27	30½-32	28-29	29-30	29½-30	28½-29½	---	---	---	29	---	---
1953-54	29½-31	29-30	28-29	28-29	28-29	29-30	---	---	---	---	25-26	24-25
1954-55	24-25	24	22-22½	23-24	23-24	21½-23	---	---	---	---	25-26	28
1955-56	27	27-29½	28-30	26-26½	25½-27	---	---	---	---	---	30-33	28
1956-57	25-26	24-26										
					(c) Live, heavy type young hens, San Joaquin Valley, California 1/							
1952-53	28	32	32-32½	33	33½-34	---	---	---	---	29	---	---
1953-54	32	32	33	35-35½	36½-37½	---	---	---	---	---	26	28
1954-55	28	28	28	31-32	31½-32	---	---	---	---	---	25-26	30
1955-56	29	30½-31	34½-35	32	31½-32½	---	---	---	---	---	31	27-28
1956-57	26½	27½-28										
					(d) Frozen eviscerated toms, heaviest weights quoted, New York City 1/							
1952-53	57-59	61-64	58-60	54-58	53-57	53-55	55-56½	53-55	52-55	56-58½	56-60	55-59
1953-54	56-59	55-57	55-59	53-56	51½-54	51-54	51-54	51½-54½	49½-53½	49-53½	50-52	46½-49
1954-55	47-49	47-49	46½-49	44-48	43½-46	43-45	44-48	44½-48	46-49	47½-50½	48½-52½	49½-53
1955-56	51-54	55½-57	44½-45	48-50	47½-48½	53-54	54-55	54-55	57½-58	61½-62	64-65	65-65½
1956-57	65½-66	60-61										
					(e) Frozen eviscerated hens, 12-14 pounds, New York City 1/							
1952-53	55-57	57-59	57-59	56-59	56-58	56-59	56-58	54-57	54½-57	62-64	61-64	59-61
1953-54	56-59	55-57	56-57	58-60	59-60½	60-61½	60-61½	60-61½	59½-61½	---	---	51-53
1954-55	45½-48	48-49½	47-49	49½-51	51-53	48-51	48-51	48-50	48-50	51½-53½	51½-53½	50-52
1955-56	48-49⅓	49½-51	40½-41½	52-54	50½-52	50-51	50-51	49½-51	50-51½	53½-54	52½-53½	47-48½
1956-57	46-47	43½-44½										
					(f) Live, Beltsville Small Whites, Shenandoah Valley, Virginia and West Virginia 1/							
1952-53	30	35	36-37	37-38	37-38	42	40½	42-43	42-43	38	35	33
1953-54	32-33	33	33-33½	36½	37½	37	35	37	33	30	30-31	27-29½
1954-55	26-26½	27½-28	29	31-32	32	28	30	30	30	31	31	30½-31
1955-56	30-30½	30-30½	30½-31	30-31½	28-28½	28-29	31-32	33	30-31	29-30	29	26½-27
1956-57	26½	25-26										
					(g) Ice-packed New York dressed, Beltsville Small Whites, New York City 1/							
1952-53	39-39½	45-46	47½-48	47½-48	49-50	53½-54	52½-53	55½-56	51-52	48-49	43-44½	43-44
1953-54	41½-42	42½-43	41½-42	44-45	46½-47	47-48	44½-45	44½-45	42½-43	38½-39	36-37	36½-37
1954-55	33½-34	35½-36	36½-37	38½-39	39-40	37-38	36½-37	39½-40	39-40	38-38½	38½-39	39½-40
1955-56	37-38	38-38½	38½-39	38-39	38½-39	38-39	39-40	41½-42	40-41	36-37	33½-34	33-35
1956-57	34½-35	34½-35										
					(h) Live, heavy type toms, Iowa 2/							
1952-53						---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1953-54	---	30	30-30½	29-31½	30-31	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1954-55	24½	26	24-24½	23-24	25-25½	20-23	---	23½	---	20-22	---	---
1955-56	27	29-31	30	26-27	28-28½	---	---	---	---	28-30½	---	28
1956-57	29-30	23-26										
					(i) Live, heavy type hens, Iowa 2/							
1952-53						---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1953-54	34½-35½	33-34	34½-35½	38-38½	39-40	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1954-55	28	30¼-30½	29-30	32½-33	35-35½	---	27½	---	---	---	---	32-33
1955-56	30½-31½	34	37	33	32-34	---	---	---	---	28-28½	31	28
1956-57	28½	26-27										

1/ First day of month or first following day when quotation is available.
2/ First Friday of month.

Table 20.- Turkeys: Tentative buildup of 1956 supply, with 1954 and 1955 comparisons*

Item and unit	1954		1955		1956	
Heavy breed turkeys raised, millions		48.539		48.773		62.758
White-feathered heavy breed turkeys						
Hatchings as a percent of total heavy breeds	(5)		(10)		23	
Number of white heavies raised, millions	(2.4)		(4.9)		14.4	
Percent of white heavies slaughtered light			(50)		(50)	
Number of white heavies slaughtered light		---		(2.4)		7.2
Net number of heavies raised to heavy weights		(48.5)		(46.4)		(55.6)
Average weights per turkey, excl. fryers: hens	14.4		14.4			
toms	24.1		24.5			
average	19.3		19.5		(19.4)	
Total weight, heavies raised, million lb. live		(936)		(905)		(1,084)
Light breed turkeys raised, millions		19.154		16.785		13.582
White-feathered heavy breed turkeys slaughtered young, millions		---		(2.4)		(7.2)
Total		(19.2)		(19.2)		(20.8)
Average weight per broiler-fryer turkey, lb.	8.2		8.3		(8.3)	
Total weight, light weight turkeys raised, million lb. live		(157)		(159)		(170)
Total, heavy and light turkeys raised, million lbs.		(1,093)		(1,064)		(1,254)
Total, live weight turkeys sold from farms, plus used at home, mil. lb.		1,161		1,091		

* Numbers in parentheses are not official estimates of the Department of Agriculture.

Table 21.- Turkeys: United States storage stocks, monthly, 1945 to date and weekly, 35 cities, October 1955 to date

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
	(a) First-of-month, U. S.											
1945	73	74	63	46	33	29	27	21	18	27	43	78
1946	108	135	135	124	107	97	79	63	55	45	84	117
1947	128	140	126	109	95	86	72	59	45	39	65	86
1948	83	83	70	55	41	33	27	19	13	15	34	47
1949	51	55	51	44	36	33	29	21	21	35	76	107
1950	127	138	129	113	93	77	64	47	37	43	77	108
1951	110	117	101	80	60	48	39	30	25	42	83	109
1952	107	116	107	93	72	63	56	46	44	71	142	158
1953	147	143	118	92	72	60	53	44	46	69	126	135
1954	122	125	109	97	79	69	57	48	51	78	141	147
1955	121	124	111	93	71	60	52	45	48	77	144	129
1956	95	96	83	64	49	41	36	36	51			
	(b) Weekly, 35 cities											
Weeks 1/	1956									1955		
First	51	52	43	34	26	21	18	18	28	40	82	69
Second	52	50	43	32	24	21	17	20	32	47	86	73
Third	53	48	42	30	22	19	17	23		54	75	68
Fourth	53	46	39	28	21	19	17	25		64	61	53
Fifth			35			18				74		52

1/ Holdings on successive Saturdays of each month.

Table 22.- Poultry ration cost, and poultry-product/feed price ratios, mid-August 1956, with comparisons

Period	Poultry ration cost, per 100 lb.	Ratio (U. S. farm price basis)			
		Egg-feed	Chicken-feed	Broiler-feed 1/	Turkey-feed
	Dol.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
		(a) Annual averages			
1948-52	3.91	11.4	7.1	2/	9.3
1953	3.86	12.3	6.6	5.1	8.6
1954	3.86	9.4	5.4	4.3	7.9
1955	3.61	10.8	6.4	5.0	8.4
		(b) Mid-August averages			
1948-52	3.89	12.1	7.2	2/	9.2
1953	3.84	13.1	6.6	5.3	8.5
1954	3.90	9.6	4.6	4.6	7.1
1955	3.54	11.1	6.8	5.4	8.3
1956	3.66	10.1	5.1	3.8	7.8

1/ Based on farm value of broiler mash.

2/ Data unavailable prior to 1953.

Table 23.- Poultry feeds and ingredients: Prices, January 1955 to date

Month	U. S. average value of poultry ration, per 100 lb.		Average price paid by farmers per 100 pounds for						Weekly average carlot prices, Chicago, at about mid-month converted to per 100-pound equivalent			
			Laying mash		Broiler mash		Scratch grains		No. 2 yellow corn		Soybean meal 44 percent protein	
	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Jan.	3.80	3.39	4.77	4.36	5.20	4.79	4.28	3.93	2.74	2.26	3.92	3.09
Feb.	3.80	3.40	4.76	4.36	5.18	4.81	4.28	3.93	2.74	2.32	3.80	3.02
Mar.	3.76	3.42	4.74	4.36	5.15	4.81	4.27	3.95	2.66	2.39	3.62	2.90
Apr.	3.73	3.51	4.70	4.42	5.13	4.91	4.25	4.05	2.71	2.69	3.49	3.21
May	3.74	3.62	4.68	4.57	5.08	5.02	4.27	4.14	2.69	2.74	3.21	3.61
June	3.69	3.63	4.62	4.57	5.02	5.06	4.24	4.14	2.66	2.77	3.12	3.56
July	3.63	3.64	4.60	4.58	5.02	5.08	4.21	4.16	2.65	2.82	3.23	3.31
Aug.	3.54	3.66	4.53	4.57	4.95	5.10	4.14	4.19	2.16	2.84	3.25	3.24
Sept.	3.47		4.45		4.85		4.04		2.33	2.92	3.54	2.84
Oct.	3.44		4.47		4.88		4.01		2.16		3.34	
Nov.	3.36		4.38		4.77		3.94		2.06		2.99	
Dec.	3.38		4.36		4.78		3.93		2.31		3.06	

Table 24.- Distribution of layers and egg production or sales by flock size, 1930 to date (including data for cover chart)

Size of flock at time of enumeration 1/	Unit	All farms 1930	1935	1940	1945	1950	1954	Commercial farms only, 1954 2/
		(a) Number of laying flocks						
Under 50	Thou.	2,949	3,406	3,016	2,430	2,416		1,077
50 - 99	do.	1,189	1,303	1,101	1,076	802		429
100 - 199	do.	860	803	736	870	651		427
200 - 399	do.	306	257	237	413	286		326
400 and over	do.	69	63	61	108	89		147
Total 3/	do.	5,373	5,833	5,150	4,896	4,245	3,437	2,406
		(b) Number of chickens in flocks						
Under 50	Mil.	68	80	70	59	55		25
50 - 99	do.	77	82	70	68	52		27
100 - 199	do.	109	100	93	110	84		56
200 - 399	do.	74	62	57	102	71		83
400 and over	do.	51	47	48	88	82		150
Total 3/	do.	379	372	338	427	343	384	340
		(c) Number of eggs produced or sold						
		All farms: Eggs produced					All farms: Eggs sold, 1954	Commercial farms only, eggs sold, 1954 2/
		1930	1935	1940	1945	1950		
None	Mil. doz.	12	8	20	25	69		23
Under 50	do.	459	368	419	404	125		37
50 - 99	do.	525	432	444	475	234		102
100 - 199	do.	729	571	628	844	612		366
200 - 399	do.	518	394	421	806	614		630
400 and over	do.	448	387	459	797	829		1,505
Total 3/	do.	2,690	2,161	2,391	3,352	2,483	2,782	2,663

1/ Enumeration dates were April 1 for 1930, 1940, and 1950; January 1 for 1935 and 1945; and October-November for 1954. Flock size on those dates was judged by number of birds on hand which were over 3 months of age (1930 and 1935); over 4 months of age (1940 and 1945); and 4 months of age and over (1950 and 1954).

2/ The breakdown by flock size was made only for commercial farms in 1954: commercial farms exclude subsistence and part-time farms.

3/ Some totals may differ from totals published elsewhere because they were expanded from sample data.

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